

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1 1. A system for processing reimbursements to physicians for participating
2 in a medical study, comprising:

3 a microprocessor-based controller; and
4 a computer readable medium, including instructions executable by the
5 microprocessor-base controller to:

6 receive patient medical information from a physician relating to the
7 medical study;

8 automatically validate the patient medical information;
9 upon validating the patient medical information, store a reimbursement
10 record in a database, the reimbursement record indicating at least a reimbursement
11 amount and the physician to be reimbursed; and
12 automatically process at least one reimbursement reimbursement to
13 each physician having one or more reimbursement records in the database.

1 2. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the patient medical
2 information is selected from the group consisting of medical device information, subjective
3 patient information, objective patient information, and patient diagnosis information.

1 3. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the database includes a
2 plurality of reimbursement records, and wherein the computer readable medium further
3 includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:

4 group at least some of the plurality of reimbursement records into a single
5 reimbursement file; and

6 provide to an approval authority access to the reimbursement file.

1 4. The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the reimbursement file
2 comprises a spreadsheet having the at least some of the plurality of reimbursement records
3 listed therein.

1 5. The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the reimbursement file is
2 electronically forwarded to the approval authority.

1 6. The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the approval authority can
2 approve the reimbursement records for reimbursement reimbursements electronically.

1 7. The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the computer readable
2 medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:
3 process reimbursement reimbursements to the physicians upon approval by the
4 approval authority.

1 8. The system as recited in claim 3, wherein the computer readable
2 medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:
3 electronically transmit the reimbursement file to an accounting system adapted
4 to process the reimbursement reimbursements to the physicians upon approval by the
5 approval authority.

1 9. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the database includes a
2 plurality of reimbursement records associated with one physician, and wherein the computer
3 readable medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based
4 controller to:

5 accumulate the plurality of reimbursement records for the one physician into a
6 single reimbursement record for the physician; and
7 process a single reimbursement reimbursement for the single reimbursement
8 record.

1 10. The system as recited in claim 1, wherein the computer readable
2 medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:
3 accumulate a plurality of reimbursement records in the database for one or
4 more physicians over a predetermined period of time; and
5 process one or more reimbursement reimbursements to each of the one or
6 more physicians at the end of the predetermined period of time.

1 11. A system for processing reimbursements to physicians for participating
2 in a medical study, comprising:
3 means for receiving patient medical information from a physician relating to
4 the medical study;

5 means for automatically validating the patient medical information;
6 means for storing a reimbursement record in a database upon validating the
7 patient medical information, the reimbursement record indicating at least a reimbursement
8 amount and the physician to be reimbursed; and
9 means for automatically processing at least one reimbursement reimbursement
10 to each physician having reimbursement records in the database.

1 12. The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the patient medical
2 information is selected from the group consisting of medical device information, subjective
3 patient information, objective patient information, and patient diagnosis information.

1 13. The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the database includes a
2 plurality of reimbursement records, and wherein the system further comprises:
3 means for grouping at least some of the plurality of reimbursement records
4 into a single reimbursement file; and
5 means for providing to an approval authority access to the reimbursement file.

1 14. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the reimbursement file
2 comprises a spreadsheet having the at least some of the plurality of reimbursement records
3 listed therein.

1 15. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein system further comprises:
2 means for forwarding the reimbursement file to the approval authority
3 electronically.

1 16. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the system further
2 comprises:
3 means for allowing the approval authority to approve the reimbursement
4 records for reimbursement reimbursements electronically.

1 17. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the system further
2 comprises:
3 means for processing reimbursement reimbursements to the physicians upon
4 approval by the approval authority.

1 18. The system as recited in claim 13, wherein the system further
2 comprises:

3 means for electronically transmitting the reimbursement file to an accounting
4 system adapted to process the reimbursement reimbursements to the physicians upon
5 approval by the approval authority.

1 19. The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the database includes a
2 plurality of reimbursement records associated with one physician, and wherein the system
3 further comprises:

4 means for accumulating the plurality of reimbursement records for the one
5 physician into a single reimbursement record for the physician; and

6 means for processing a single reimbursement reimbursement for the single
7 reimbursement record.

1 20. The system as recited in claim 11, wherein the system further
2 comprises:

3 means for accumulating a plurality of reimbursement records in the database
4 for one or more physicians over a predetermined period of time; and

5 means for processing one or more reimbursement reimbursements to each of
6 the one or more physicians at the end of the predetermined period of time.

1 21. A system for processing reimbursements to physicians for participating
2 in one or more medical studies, wherein the one or more medical studies require physicians to
3 perform procedures on one or more patients, the system comprising:

4 a microprocessor-based controller;

5 a computer readable medium, wherein the computer readable medium includes
6 instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:

7 receive medical procedure information from one or more physicians
8 for each procedure performed by the one or more physicians on the one or more
9 patients in the medical study;

10 automatically validate the medical procedure information;

upon validating the medical procedure information, store a reimbursement record in a database for each procedure, the reimbursement record indicating at least a reimbursement amount and the physician to be reimbursed; and automatically process at least one reimbursement reimbursement to each physician having one or more reimbursement records in the database.

22. The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the medical procedure information comprises information selected from the group consisting of medical device information, subjective patient information, objective patient information, medical procedure information, and patient diagnosis information.

23. The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the computer readable medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:

group at least some of the reimbursement records in the database into a single reimbursement file; and

provide to an approval authority access to the reimbursement file.

24. The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the reimbursement file comprises a spreadsheet having the at least some of the reimbursement records listed therein.

25. The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the reimbursement file is electronically forwarded to the approval authority.

26. The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the approval authority can approve the reimbursement records for reimbursement reimbursements electronically.

27. The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the computer readable medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to: process reimbursement reimbursements to the one or more physicians upon approval by the approval authority.

28. The system as recited in claim 23, wherein the computer readable medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to: electronically transmit the reimbursement file to an accounting system adapted to process the reimbursement reimbursements to the one or more physicians upon approval by the approval authority.

1 29. The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the database includes a
2 plurality of reimbursement records associated with at least one of the one or more physicians,
3 and wherein the computer readable medium further includes instructions executable by the
4 microprocessor-based controller to:

5 accumulate the plurality of reimbursement records for the at least one
6 physician into a single reimbursement record for the physician; and
7 process a single reimbursement reimbursement for the plurality for the single
8 reimbursement record.

1 30. The system as recited in claim 21, wherein the computer readable
2 medium further includes instructions executable by the microprocessor-based controller to:

3 accumulate one or more reimbursement records in the database for the one or
4 more physicians over a predetermined period of time; and
5 process one or more reimbursement reimbursements to each of the one or
6 more physicians at the end of the predetermined period of time.

1 31. A method for processing reimbursements to physicians for
2 participating in one or more medical studies, wherein the one or more medical studies require
3 physicians to perform procedures on one or more patients, the method comprising:

4 receiving medical procedure information from one or more physicians for each
5 procedure performed by the one or more physicians on the one or more patients in the
6 medical study;

7 automatically validating the medical procedure information;

8 upon validating the medical procedure information, storing a reimbursement
9 record in a database for each procedure, the reimbursement record indicating at least a
10 reimbursement amount and the physician to be reimbursed; and

11 automatically processing at least one reimbursement reimbursement to each
12 physician having one or more reimbursement records in the database.

1 32. The method as recited in claim 31, wherein the medical procedure
2 information comprises information selected from the group consisting of medical device
3 information, subjective patient information, objective patient information, medical procedure
4 information, and patient diagnosis information.

1 33. The method as recited in claim 31, further comprising:
2 grouping at least some of the reimbursement records in the database into a
3 single reimbursement file; and
4 providing to an approval authority access to the reimbursement file.

1 34. The method as recited in claim 33, wherein the reimbursement file
2 comprises a spreadsheet having the at least some of the reimbursement records listed therein.

1 35. The method as recited in claim 33, further comprising forwarding the
2 reimbursement file to the approval authority electronically.

1 36. The method as recited in claim 33, further comprising the approval
2 authority approving the reimbursement records for reimbursement reimbursements
3 electronically.

1 37. The method as recited in claim 33, further comprising:
2 processing reimbursement reimbursements to the one or more physicians upon
3 approval by the approval authority.

1 38. The method as recited in claim 33, further comprising:
2 electronically transmitting the reimbursement file to an accounting system
3 adapted to process the reimbursement reimbursements to the one or more physicians upon
4 approval by the approval authority.

1 39. The method as recited in claim 31, wherein the database includes a
2 plurality of reimbursement records associated with at least one of the one or more physicians,
3 and wherein the method further comprises:

4 accumulating the plurality of reimbursement records for the at least one
5 physician into a single reimbursement record for the physician; and

6 processing a single reimbursement reimbursement for the plurality for the
7 single reimbursement record.

1 40. The method as recited in claim 31, further comprising:
2 accumulating one or more reimbursement records in the database for the one
3 or more physicians over a predetermined period of time; and

- 4 processing one or more reimbursement reimbursements to each of the one or
- 5 more physicians at the end of the predetermined period of time.